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LOCAL MEETINGS.

WEST VIRGINIA FOLK-LORE SOCIETY. — The West Virginia Folk-Lore Society was organized just about a year ago, and I am sure that those interested in such things will be glad to know something of the progress made. The wide-spread interest and generous help from persons in almost every part of the State have been very gratifying, and our membership list has reached the number of one hundred and twenty-six. Monthly reports of the progress of the work have appeared in "The West Virginia Journal and Educator," in which are printed various specimens of material collected. Special attention was given throughout the year to the traditional popular ballads of English and Scottish origin. Much valuable matter of other sorts has been secured; but stress was laid upon collecting the popular ballads still existing amongst us, because they were thought to be the most valuable part of our folk-lore, and the part likely to be soonest lost. Of these we have found twenty-five, most of them in good versions, but a few fragmentary. They are as follows, the figures in parentheses representing the number of variants in each case:

- Lord Lovell, Child 75 (3).
- The House Carpenter, Child 243 (14).
- The Miller's Two Daughters, Child 10 (3).
- Dandoo, Child 277 (2).
- The Hangman's Tree, Child 95 (3).
- Six Kings' Daughters or Pretty Polly, Child 4 (7).
- Barbara Allen, Child 84 (5).
- Fair Annie and Gregory, Child 76 (3).
- Lady Margaret, Child 74 (2).
- The Greenwood Siding, Child 20 (3).
- Young Collins, Child 85 (2).
- The Jew's Daughter, Child 155 (9).
- Lord Thomas and Fair Ellender, Child 73 (5).
- The Two Brothers, Child 49 (2).
- The Wife of Usher's Well, Child 79 (7).
- Lord Randall, Child 12 (8).
- Henry Martin, Child 250 (1).
- Lord Bateman, Child 53 (2).
- Lord Henry, Child 68 (1).
- Bessie Bell and Mary Gray, Child 201 (1).
- The Seven Sleepers, Child 7 (1).
- The Gypsy Davy, Child 200 (2).
- Home Came the Old Man, Child 274 (2).
- The Golden Willow Tree, Child 286 (2).
- The Three Crows, Child 26 (3).

The total number of variants of the above-named twenty-five ballads is ninety-three.

West Virginia has developed two ballads of her own very similar to the traditional ballads. They are, —

- John Hardy (3).
- The Wreck on the C. & O. (7).

A detailed report of other material gathered is not feasible at this time. Suffice it to say that we have received, in addition to the ballads, one hundred and seventy-seven old songs, some of them not folk-material; fourteen ghost-stories and witch-tales; and a large number of singing-games, counting-out rhymes, superstitions, negro melodies, and "spirituals," etc.

The officers of the Society are: *President* and *General Editor*, John Harrington Cox, West Virginia University, Morgantown; *Vice-President*, Robert Allen Armstrong, West Virginia University, Morgantown; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Walter Barnes, Fairmont Normal School, Fairmont.

Following is the Constitution adopted by the Society:

SECTION I. *Name*. The name of this organization shall be The West Virginia Folk-Lore Society.

SEC. II. *Purpose*. The purpose of this Society shall be to collect, preserve, and publish the folk-lore surviving in West Virginia, especially the old English and Scottish popular ballads.

SEC. III. *Membership*. Any one that is actively interested in the work and promises to further the purpose of the Society may become a member.

SEC. IV. *Officers*. The officers of the Society shall be a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer, whose duties shall be those usually performed by such officers except in case of the President, who shall be also Archivist and General Editor. The term of the officers shall be for three years and "until their successors shall be elected and qualified."

SEC. V. *Executive Committee*. The officers of the Society shall constitute the Executive Committee.

SEC. VI. *Correspondents*. The Executive Committee may appoint official Correspondents at any time to take charge of the work in the various sections of the State.

SEC. VII. *Annual Meeting*. The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held at Morgantown during the session of the Summer School, unless the Executive Committee shall determine otherwise.

SEC. VIII. *Special Meetings*. Special Meetings may be called by the Executive Committee.

The following persons have been appointed Official Correspondents: John B. Adkins, Branchland, Lincoln County; I. O. Ash, Middlebourne, Tyler County; Wallie Barnett, Leon, Mason County; Miss Anna Copley, Shoals, Wayne County; G. W. Cunningham, Elkins, Randolph County; Miss Maude Groves, Deepwell, Nicholas County; Miss Lily Hagans, Morgantown, Monongalia County; Rex Hoke, Second Creek, Monroe County; Mrs. E. A. Hunt, Belington, Barbour County; Mrs. W. M. Parker, Hinton, Summers County; George Paugh, Thomas, Tucker County; Mrs. Hilary G. Richardson, Clarksburg, Harrison County; Miss Mabel Richards, Fairmont, Marion County; E. C. Smith, Weston, Lewis County; W. H. S. White, Piedmont, Mineral County.

All persons sending in contributions will have their names placed on the membership list. Others desiring to become members will please send their names to the Secretary-Treasurer. There are no dues.

JOHN HARRINGTON COX.

MORGANTOWN, W. VA.,

July 15, 1916.